

# Columbia Missourian

70th Year — No. 219      Good Morning! It's Friday, June 2, 1978      2 Sections — 20 Pages — 15 Cents

**U.S. finds 'bugs' in embassy**  
Story on Page 12A

## House approves tuition tax credit plan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Thursday passed tuition tax credits of up to \$250 for college students and \$100 for private and church school pupils. H.E.W. Secretary Joseph Califano called it unconstitutional and vowed that church schools will never get the money.

The House voted 237-158 to pass the bill and send it to a sympathetic Senate. But the 209-194 vote on an amendment to extend the credit for private elementary and secondary schools was more significant. It set the stage for a veto fight with President Carter and a possible church-state confrontation in the Supreme Court.

In a statement issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Califano said:

"The parochial schools of this country will never see a dollar of the unconstitutional aid the House voted today, because the courts will invalidate it. For Congress to hold out the credit as help for parochial schools is a hollow gesture which in the long run will only delay the search for constitutional means of assistance to parochial education."

The House defeated, by a 239-155 vote,

one final effort by opponents to substitute a plan allowing parents to defer payment of up to \$2,000 a year in taxes, paying the government back over 10 years following graduation.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said, "This is a historic vote. The House of Representatives has overturned the religious bigotry of the 19th century, and I am sure the Senate will now do the same."

"I hope the president will find within himself to understand that this is a matter of justice and will sign a tuition tax credit plan into law."

Unlike the House, which never had voted on the tax credit issue until Thursday, the Senate has approved tuition tax credits six times in the last decade and is certain to approve or enlarge the House bill.

But President Carter plans to veto any such measure that might clear Congress. And even if the veto should be overridden, a Supreme Court challenge of the bill is assured if it includes private and church schools.

The key 209-194 vote came on an amendment by Rep. Charles Vanik, D-Ohio, which would allow parents of private elementary and secondary

school students to subtract from their tax bills 25 percent of tuition costs up to a total tax saving of \$50 in 1978 and \$100 in later years.

For college students, the credit would be higher — \$100 in 1978, \$150 in 1979, and \$250 in 1980.

The credit could not go to kindergarten students.

An amendment to raise the credit from 25 percent to 50 percent failed 261-142.

A credit is subtracted directly from taxes owed as opposed to an exemption or deduction which is subtracted from income before taxes are calculated.

The votes came after months of lobbying, including a massive last-minute fight against the bill by national private education groups and by Califano, who has developed a plan supported by Carter to expand current education grant and loan programs.

Those favoring the bill were mainly Catholic groups. Numerous priests were peppered through the gallery during debate.

Another major argument against the bill was that it would harm public education while not helping parents of private school children.

## Study lists financial disclosures

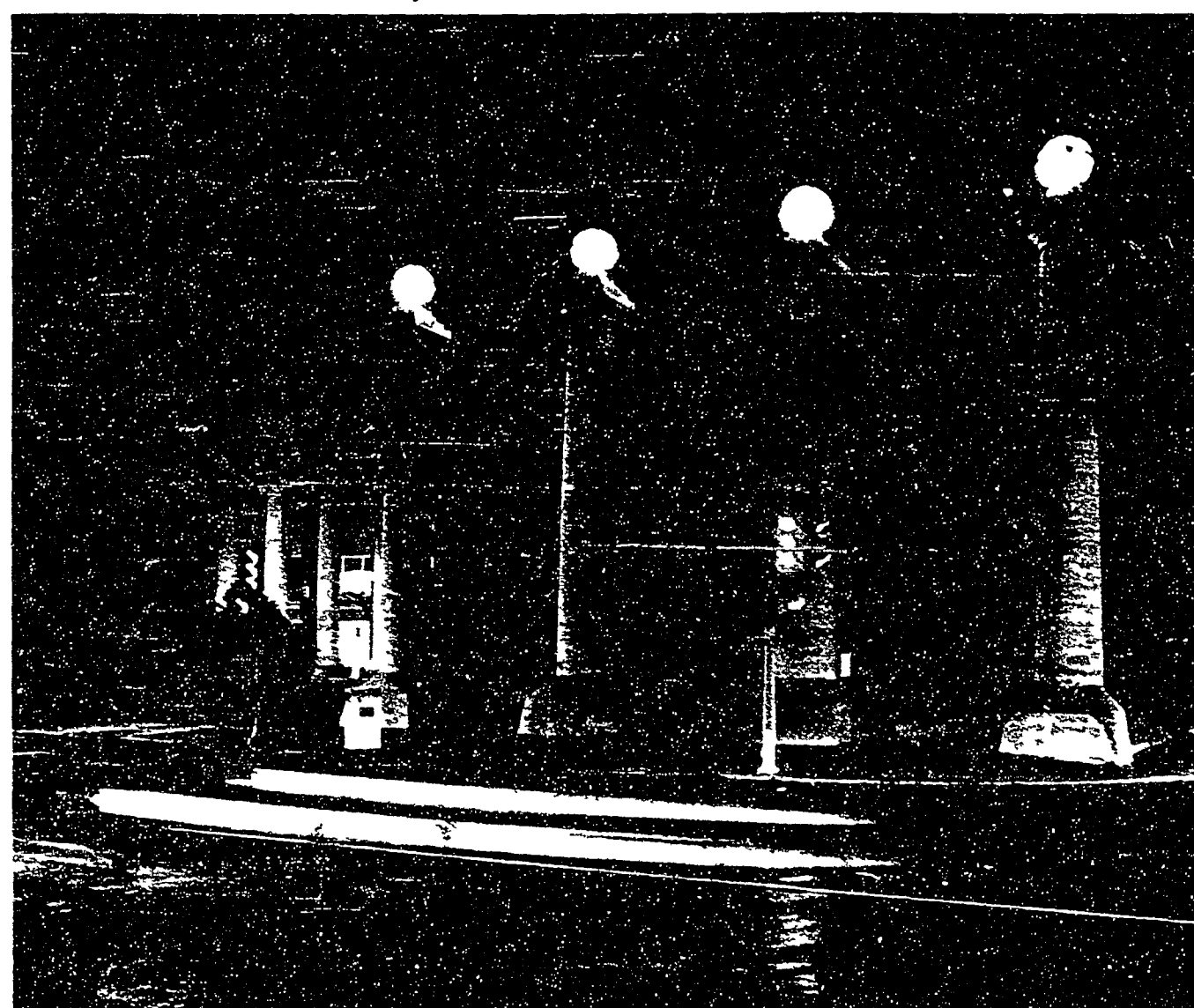
### Myths disproved for House members

By Wendell Rawls Jr.  
N.Y. Times Service

NEW YORK — A computerized study of the personal financial disclosures filed in early May by 407 members of the House of Representatives disproves some myths but provides some interesting correlations between the way members handle their private finances and their public responsibilities.

The disclosures are the most extensive ever required of House members and in many ways constitute a sociological survey of elected national officials.

The computer study, conducted by



**Columns aglow**  
Globes atop the columns in front of the Boone County Courthouse were lighted Thursday night for the first time in 50 years. Light streaks in the foreground are from a passing automobile.

## Former lobbyist testifies

### Illegal gifts admitted

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Gulf Oil's former top lobbyist described Thursday how he illegally paid congressmen \$5 million over 13 years for campaign and personal use, often using President Lyndon Johnson and Senate leaders as conduits.

Lobbyist Claude Wild Jr. guessed some of the money may have paid for fur coats and mistresses.

"When you make a transfer of money from one person to a politician or his agent," he said, "you are never really sure what it is for."

In a sworn statement filed in U.S. District Court, Wild said Gulf tapped its secret corporate fund for a \$1,000 donation to President Carter's successful 1976 campaign for governor in Georgia.

Corporations legally can donate money to state campaigns in Georgia.

Wild's testimony detailed how he dispensed more than \$5 million in corporate funds to political candidates between 1960 and 1973, in his role as Gulf's chief lobbyist.

Under order of Judge John Sirica, Wild responded April 26 to questioning in a suit brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission almost three years ago. The SEC filed the statement with the court Thursday.

But those who received illegal funds are clear of federal prosecution — the statute of limitations on campaign and tax law violations has lapsed. With the

exception of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Russell Long, D-La., most of those involved either are dead or out of office.

Wild said Gulf gave money to Lyndon Johnson, Long and former Republican Senators Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Bob Kerr of Oklahoma, for distribution to congressional and gubernatorial candidates.

Asked by the SEC if the money went for campaigns only, Wild replied "It is very difficult to differentiate between a gift and a contribution, payment of one kind or the other."

"Politicians have got all kinds of problems. They have got deficits, they have got entertainment expenses, they have got cars to buy, kids to educate, fur coats to buy, mistresses, I suppose, to take care of."

Wild resigned after his November 1974 conviction for making an illegal \$100,000 contribution President Nixon's re-election campaign.

He said his first assignment was to fulfill a Gulf commitment of \$50,000 to Johnson's top aide, Walter Jenkins, to help finance Johnson's 1960 bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. He said Gulf gave Johnson money through the early years of his presidency.

Explaining a document that listed scores of senators and other recipients of Gulf funds, Wild said "The next line represents payments

made to staff members of Vice President Lyndon Johnson. The entries indicate a \$25,000 entry in 1962, which was for his or his delegate's use in assisting members of Congress who he hoped to see elected or re-elected."

"In the 1964 year, which was a presidential election year, the number is \$50,000 and represents, I assume, the expenses that he incurred in the campaign, at the convention and perhaps other expenditures that I am not aware of."

Wild said in 1963 "\$40,000 (was) given to Sen. Russell Long, who in turn was to give it to one of the opponents of John McKeithen, a candidate for governor of Louisiana."

Another \$15,000 was "given by me to Sen. Russell Long in 1972 for the purpose of his giving assistance to other senators running for office," Wild said.

Wild said Senate recipients in 1962 included Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., Herman Talmadge, D-Ga., Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii and some Republicans who "received money from Sen. Bob Kerr, which I had given him for the purpose of delivering the money to them."

Long, vacationing in Florida, said through a spokesman "I cannot confirm or deny the precise amounts of money mentioned in Mr. Wild's statement, since it occurred many years ago."

## Jury finds Sager, 17, guilty of manslaughter

By Thomas Christman  
Missourian staff writer

After more than 12 hours of deliberation, a Boone County Circuit Court jury Thursday found Mark Sager guilty of manslaughter in connection with the Sept. 2, 1977 murder of 14-year-old Julie Wittmeyer. But the jury could not agree on a sentence.

Sager, 17, showed no emotion when the verdict was read.

Judge Frank Conley will hear a motion for a new trial on Aug. 7. If the motion is denied, Conley then will sentence Sager.

Manslaughter carries a possible sentence of a \$500 fine to 10 years in the state penitentiary. Sager would have faced a possible death sentence had he been convicted of capital murder. Conley had told the jury it could return a guilty verdict on charges of capital murder, first or second degree murder or manslaughter.

Miss Wittmeyer was reported missing by her father Sept. 2 after she failed to return home from school. Her body was found two days later near a little-used lane close to the Wittmeyer farm in Platte City.

Sager was connected with the crime by two dental experts who testified that a bite mark found on Miss Wittmeyer's right breast had been made by Sager. But defense attorney Roy Brown produced his own dental expert who said Sager could not have made the mark.

Two persons testified they had seen a car resembling Sager's near the scene when the murder was said to have occurred. Several defense witnesses

testified that Sager was at home when the Miss Wittmeyer was killed.

After the verdict, Paul Allred of the state attorney general's office who assisted Platte County Prosecutor Greg Plumb, said in an emotional plea before sentencing that he "felt sorry for Mark Sager." He asked the jury to give the penal system 10 years to rehabilitate him.

"Please for God's sake," he said, "stand up and give this boy the maximum sentence under the law."

In a statement that lasted barely 15 seconds, Brown told the jury they had made a "horrible mistake" by finding Sager guilty of manslaughter. "If you want to compromise, why compound one mistake by making another mistake," he said.

After deliberating for about 15 minutes, however, the jury returned and said it could not agree on what Sager's sentence should be.

After the court adjourned, Plumb said he was "disappointed with the verdict," and called it a "compromise."

Plumb said the jury obviously had thought the prosecution had presented a weak case. He also said he believed many people did not trust late mark evidence as being truly scientific.

Defense attorney Brown, members of the Sager and Wittmeyer families and members of the jury all refused to comment on the nine-day trial.

The case went to the jury Wednesday afternoon. The jury deliberated until about 10:45 p.m. Wednesday and then resumed deliberations at 8 a.m. Thursday. It returned the verdict at 10:35 a.m.

### Inside today

#### Making the grade

The University athletic department announced Thursday that Missouri football players posted their highest combined grade-point average ever and that none of the starters lost their eligibility. Details on Page 6A.

#### Backyard medicine chest

'Tis the season to be harvesting your herbs. A vital part of folk medicine, many believe strongly in the curative powers of these little plants. See Weekend, Page 1B.

#### In town today

7:30 p.m. Missouri Commission on Human Rights meets, Holiday Inn East, Interstate 70 and Providence Road.

Movie listings on Page 2B.

## Doctor's charity ends as money runs out

AURORA, Ill. (UPI) — Eugene Balthazar's dream of a free medical clinic came to an end Thursday.

"Aurora has been very good to me and my family," the gray-haired physician, 76, said. "But I'm afraid that after five years of having the clinic, I've done all I possibly can to thank the community and help these people."

Five years ago, he said, "I want to do this for several more years unless I run out of breath. If that happens, it will be a different story."

He didn't run out of breath. He ran out of money.

Since the spry general practitioner opened his clinic in 1972, an average of 100 patients daily have received treatment.

For several years he picked up the costs himself — \$1,000 per month. He then turned to private contributions. Now that well has run dry.

"In all my years, the sound of children out there in that waiting room coughing, choking, crying — why, even urinating on the floor — and knowing I've always been able to make them better is the most satisfying thing I could do," he said.

## County's jobless rate reaches three-year low

By Mark Leheney  
Missourian staff writer

The Columbia and Boone County seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.3 percent in April, the lowest since April 1975, according to Roy Meadows, an analyst with the Missouri Job Service.

The rate in March 1978 had been 3.6 percent, and in April 1977 it was 3.9 percent.

The seasonal adjustment removes the effects of normal fluctuations in the

unemployment rate brought about by trade cycles or weather changes.

Unemployment in construction, for example, rises sharply during the winter months and an adjusted figure will reflect what the rate would have been during a normal work month. The unadjusted or "raw" April rate in Columbia was 2.7 percent.

Meadows attributed the decline to a shrinkage of the labor force.

His study, prepared for the job service, shows the work force declined from 53,679 in March to 53,360 in April.

Employment dropped from 51,740 in March to 51,600 in April.

Unemployment claims for a sample week in May have remained stable compared to the same week in May of 1977.

Meadows said the unemployment rate in Columbia was usually well below the state rate, which on an unadjusted basis, was 4.9 percent in April.

Tom Hammond, an analyst with the Missouri Division of Employment Security, said that adjusting the state

figures would add at most two-tenths of 1 percentage point to the rate.

"In Columbia, the unemployment rate rarely goes above 4 percent. Even in the 1975 recession, we didn't exceed 4 percent unemployment. The main reason for that is the number of people who work for the government," Meadows said.

Meadows said that more than 40 percent of the labor force in Boone County works for local, state or federal governments, which include educational institutions.

National statistics prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that in the first quarter of 1978, the unemployment rate for government employees was only 3.8 percent compared with 5.5 percent in manufacturing and 11.5 percent in construction. Only transportation and public utility employees had a lower rate, 3.7 percent.

Columbia posted a rate of more than 4 percent in only one other month since February 1974. That was last October.

Columbia's unemployment rate compares favorably with rates in other

Missouri cities. On unadjusted bases in April, St. Louis posted a 5.4 percent rate, St. Joseph, 5.2 percent, and Springfield, 4 percent.

Normally, the unadjusted rate rises in May and increases sharply in June because of the large number of students entering the labor force.

Meadows said he expected an increase in the raw rate in May and June. But on an adjusted basis, the unemployment rate should drop one or two tenths of 1 percent in May, before stabilizing and climbing.